

LABOUR

JUNE 1948

Volume 27 * Number 315

Price Fourpence

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EAST EDINBURGH D.L.P. — Applications are invited for the post of **Agent and Organiser**. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement, and appointment in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Application forms can be obtained from **Mr. Wm. Davie, J.P., 4 Waverley Park Terrace, Edinburgh 8**, and should be returned not later than June 30th, 1948.

CARLISLE D.L.P. invites applications for the post of **Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with National Agreement. Appointment will be made in conjunction with the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party. Forms upon which application is to be made can be obtained from **Mr. T. Hannah, Trades Hall, Scotch Street, Carlisle**, to whom they must be returned not later than July 10th, 1948.

SEDGFIELD D.L.P. invite applications for the post of **Full-time Secretary and Agent**. Salary in accordance with the National Agreement. Forms of application can be obtained from **Coun. Tom Hudson, Front Street, Trimdon Grange, Trimdon Station, Co. Durham**, to whom they must be returned not later than June 19th, 1948.

WALLSEND D.L.P.—Applications are invited for post of **Full-time Secretary-Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with National Agreement. Forms of application can be obtained from **Councillor J. Watson, J.P., 3 Cross Avenue, Wallsend-on-Tyne**, to whom they must be returned not later than June 21st, 1948.

HOLLAND - WITH - BOSTON D.L.P. invite applications for the post of **Full-time Secretary-Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with the terms of the National Agreement. Forms of application can be obtained from **Mr. R. Blow, Wyberton West, Boston, Lincs.**, to whom they must be returned not later than June 30th.

BRENTFORD AND CHISWICK D.L.P. — Applications are invited for the post of **Secretary-Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with National Agreement. Application forms from the **Secretary, Brentford and Chiswick D.L.P., 59 High Road, London, W.4**, to whom they must be returned not later than June 30th.

NORTH NORFOLK D.L.P. invite applications for the post of **Full-time Agent**. The appointment to be made in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms **60, Cawston Road, Aylsham, Norfolk**, to whom they must be returned not later than June 30th, 1948.

ROCHDALE TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL invites applications for the position of **Full-time Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement and in consultation with the National Executive Committee. Application forms from **Ralph Williams, Secretary, Rochdale Trades and Labour Council, Cloth Hall, College Street, Rochdale**, to whom they must be returned not later than June 30th, 1948.

PEMBROKESHIRE D.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of **Full-time Secretary-Organiser**. Salary and conditions in accordance with National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from **Councillor C. Green, Secretary, 10 Belmont Terrace, Pembroke, Pembrokeshire**, to whom they must be returned not later than July 1st, 1948.

ETON AND SLOUGH D.L.P.—Applications are invited for the post of **Secretary-Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms from **Mr. F. S. G. Room, C.C., 6 Salt Hill Drive, Slough, Bucks**, to whom they must be returned not later than June 30th, 1948.

PORTSMOUTH BOROUGH LABOUR PARTY invite applications for the post of **Full-time Agent**. The appointment will be made in consultation with the National Executive Committee, and offers unusual scope for applicants of proved organising capacity. Special salary rate may be available for experienced man. Application forms from **Mr. P. W. Fisher, 5a Clive Road, Fratton, Portsmouth**, to whom they should be returned not later than June 30th, 1948.

OXFORD CITY LABOUR PARTY invites applications for the post of **Secretary-Agent**. The appointment to be made in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from **Mrs. S. Rose, 31 St. Aldate's, Oxford**, to whom they must be returned not later than June 24th, 1948.

MERIONETH D.L.P. — Applications are invited for the post of **Full-time Agent**. Salary (£400-£475 per year) and conditions in accordance with National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from **Councillor W. M. Williams, Labour Central Committee Rooms, Church Street, Blaenau Ffestiniog**, to whom they must be returned not later than July 3rd, 1948.

FINCHLEY AND FRIERN BARNET D.L.P. Applications are invited for the post of **Full-time Agent**. Salary and conditions in accordance with National Agreement. Application forms from **Mrs. H. McCarthy, 63 Raleigh Drive, Friern Barnet, London, N.20**, to whom they must be returned not later than June 30th, 1948.

HORNCHURCH D.L.P.—Applications are invited for post of **Full-time Secretary-Agent**. The appointment to be made in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from **Mr. L. W. Carroll, 52, South View Drive, Upminster, Essex**, to whom they must be returned not later than June 26th, 1948.

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The Labour Organiser

PUBLISHED BY THE LABOUR PARTY, TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1

Vol. 27. No. 315

JUNE, 1948

Price Fourpence
5/- per annum, post free

FOR PARTY PUBLICISTS

“WITH twenty-five soldiers of lead,” cried an anonymous printer three hundred years ago, “I have conquered the world.” Maybe there was a touch of the poet in the make-up of that Restoration printer, but the essential truth of his remark has carried down the years.

To-day more than ever, any organisation which wishes to capture and hold the public's attention must see that its message is printed and presented in a readable and attractive manner. That goes above all for political parties and that's why the Labour Party has just published an important new booklet on printing and publicity techniques.

This booklet, *SOLDIERS OF LEAD*, has been prepared specially for the use of everyone in the Labour movement who has to deal with publicity and printed matter. It is handsomely, even lavishly, produced, with a large number of diagrams and illustrations—a great many of them in colour.

It contains, packed within its 50 pages, more detailed information and advice on publicity, on preparation of copy for the printer, on rules of composition, proof correction and use of type, on layout, on paper sizes, printing terms and other technicalities, than has ever before been brought together within two covers.

At the same time the text is written in a most lively and stimulating manner that is exceedingly readable, combining good sense with an adventurous outlook.

This booklet is being sold at a higher price than most of our literature, but still at a tiny fraction of the cost of any comparable work already in existence. We consider *SOLDIERS OF LEAD* to be one of the most important publications for the Party's internal use we have produced for many years, and capable of leading local publicity forward to quite new standards.

We therefore have no hesitation in saying that a copy should be in the hands of every key-worker in the movement. Copies can be had, price 2/8 post free, from the Labour Publications Department at Transport House.

The Rip Van Winkles Who Don't Like Canvass Cards

By A. L. WILLIAMS, Assistant National Agent

"We can't win elections—or make converts—unless we keep proper records."

THE other day I chanced to read one of the many local Labour papers which find their way to Transport House. In it there was a letter, which took up a whole page, with the title "Keep the Red Tape Flying" and signed "Frustrated."

Even the most modest journal takes a great deal of energy to turn out, and it has always surprised me how ready editors are to permit disgruntled people to air their frustrations in their papers, which surely should have as their main purpose the creation of interest and enthusiasm in the work of the Party.

"Keep the Red Tape Flying" is a little gem of its kind and is worth quoting at some length. "Frustrated" writes:

"... What is the Labour Party for? I used to think that it was to persuade the public that it would be better for them to run their own country than to let a few of the lucky rich do it for them. I used to think the point of canvassing at elections was to persuade the voter to put men into Parliament (or Councils) who would carry out a Socialist policy.

"The experts at Transport House have shewn me that I was wrong. My quaint, old-world views do not fit in this modern age of organisation, scientific approach and all the rest of it. Transport House holds that the main job of the Party is to keep records of the people who do not support it. ..."

The Criticism

You may hardly believe it but all this is simply leading to a criticism of the "single elector canvass card," and the "Hints" which appear on its back. "Frustrated" goes on:

"... If you think this is wrong—just look at the canvass-cards prepared for the local elections.

"The old-style cards did give useful information on where to concentrate your cars on polling-day, though to many of us Rip Van Winkles they did seem to waste time which could be better used trying to get support. They were so designed

that one could quickly stick in sections of an electors' list, thoughtfully supplied by the Returning Officer for the purpose. An average ward would be done in an hour or so single-handed.

"The new style is a stiff paper folder containing slips of paper, one for each elector, on which the name, address and polling number of every elector has to be written in by hand. A test ward done on these new cards took a fast writer 10½ hours to complete ..."

Carried away by his theme the frustrated one continues:

"... On the back of the cards is a list of "Hints." This tells you the most important part of the election is the canvass.

"Don't bother about having a policy or having a good candidate, or being prepared to answer difficult questions, or anything like that, because another "Hint" tells you that the object of the canvass is not to get votes or persuade people to support you; it is to get 'records'.

"A good card-index will make Transport House happy, and what else matters? Perhaps one day they will discover how to make canvass-cards eatable or export them or something. By the way, remember not to convert any non-Socialist once the cards are indexed up. If you do, the records will all be out of date and haywire. ..."

Knowing the constant stream of most attractive pamphlets, broadsheets, leaflets and other publications issued from Transport House to win support for Labour's policy, as well as the efforts made to organise hundreds of propaganda meetings and conferences, one could dismiss "Frustrated's" nightmarish distortion of the truth but for the fact that it does indicate how difficult it is to convince some Party members of the best way to organise an election.

Transport House's Part

Transport House has had a direct hand in all the by-elections since 1945 and the results can be left to speak for themselves. Every agent who took

part in one of these by-elections would be only too ready to affirm how valuable it would have been if the constituency had had on record the results of careful canvassing from the General Election and from the more recent Local Government elections.

In Parliamentary elections there are about three weeks during which the public shows any interest at all in the contest, and in local elections the period is even shorter. It should be perfectly obvious that there is insufficient time during the campaign to persuade many non-Labour supporters to vote Labour.

Of course, an effort should be made to win new voters, and that is one of the reasons why Election Addresses, posters and other material are published and why public meetings are held. If, however, old Labour supporters are not brought to the Poll it is certain that the new voters for the Labour candidate will be insufficient for him to win.

That is the reason that such an important part of the election activity is the canvass, which is designed to find out where Labour supporters live so that on polling-day a concentrated effort can be made to get them out to vote. The single canvass-card system does involve more clerical work before canvassing starts than any other system, but it saves a considerable amount of time and energy on polling-day.

Whether or not the other methods of recording the results of a canvass and using the information on polling-day are better than the single canvass-card is a matter of opinion, but "Frustrated's" objection is not in fact directed at the single canvass-card but at all systems of canvassing and recording.

Know Your Labour Voters

He keeps harping on the need to get support for the Labour Party as though it were necessary for Transport House to be told this. It might have been imagined that Transport House knew something about this job since it has directed the Labour Party in such a way that in less than 50 years it has gained sufficient support from the electorate to give it power.

The gaining of support is a job that should be carried on the whole of the year and not only during the two or three weeks of an election. But all the propaganda, however effective it might have been, will come to nothing unless those who have been affected by it can

be persuaded to come out and vote for the Labour candidates in the few hours from the opening to the close of the Poll.

This cannot be done unless those running the election know who are the Labour supporters and whether or not they have voted. That is the only sound foundation upon which a successful campaign can be built up.

The canvasser who spends his time doing his proper job is a much more valuable election worker than the wind-bag who engages in the pleasant pastime of compelling some unfortunate citizen to listen to him airing his views.

The records of a thorough canvass are not only invaluable on polling-day, but they can be of tremendous help to a Party in creating support for Labour candidates. Those who promised to vote Labour and who actually did vote are the most likely people to respond to an appeal to join the Party.

The canvass records, too, will reveal those areas where intensive propaganda is necessary in order to gain support. The planning of effective propaganda and education is possible only if a Party is aware of its supporters and its opponents. The Party that, whatever may be its excuse, refuses to follow the elementary principles of sound electioneering will not only fail to gain control of its Local Authority and the Parliamentary seat, but also will fail in the day to day task of making Socialists.

Frustrated Rip Van Winkles may sigh for the days when they made a lot of noise but won very few votes. The problem of the modern age is the problem of power, and power can be won and held only by the application of realistic methods.

DURHAM LABOUR WOMEN'S GALA

There is a grand programme ahead for this year's Annual Gala of Durham Labour Women on Saturday, June 5th. Labour Women's Sections from 14 Divisions will be taking part and each Durham M.P. has been invited to join with the women from his constituency. Bands will accompany the procession, which leaves Elvet at 1.30 p.m. and arrives at Wharton Park about 2.15 p.m., where the chief speakers will be Mr. Hugh Dalton, Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, and Miss Mary Sutherland. If wet, the meeting will be held in Miners' Hall, Red Hills, Durham City, at 2.30 p.m.

Are We Making SOCIALISTS?

★
"WE are all Socialists nowadays," said Sir William Harcourt, in a facetious aside, over 60 years ago—long before there was a Labour Party, or even an I.L.P.

It was not true then, of course; indeed, it was said as a half-sneer. Though a lot of water has run under the bridge since, it still is not the case.

WAITING FOR IT

IN the past few years we have roped in some half-a-million new members. Have these become Socialists by instinct; have they received some Pentecostal fire? Or are they just waiting and hoping that in return for blind loyalty and a few coppers a week the Labour Party can hand them the New Jerusalem on a clean plate with cellophane wrapping to keep the flies off?

Many, of course, are eager to learn more. One such writes to the Birmingham Labour weekly, "The Town Crier":

Having recently attended a one-day school at Yardley Labour Party, I was interested to notice how everyone seemed to speak at cross purposes. No two persons seemed to agree on any set principles.

I was wondering, is it possible to have a course of similar lectures either at week-ends, or in the evenings if it could be arranged, so that people like myself could get to know just what are the principles of the Labour Party, what actually is the policy, and incidentally what they hope to achieve and how.

The Labour Party has come to power, with avowedly Socialist objectives, backed by hundreds of thousands of knowledgeable Socialists wide awake to their target. But there are greater hosts within our ranks who, though entirely sympathetic, are vague and uninformed about basic principles and aims.

I'm sure there are lots of people interested in the Labour Party but who, like myself, are just not sure of the policy, etc. A course of lectures would I'm sure be very welcome, for beginners anyway.

EILEEN BYRN.

What is our answer? That we are too busy with day by day affairs to stop to expound fundamentals; that, like the rest of us, she will pick up such knowledge as she goes along, if she will get busy with the immediate, urgent jobs, the same as we had to.

But our opportunities, in the earlier days, were far greater. Our numbers were far fewer; the proportion of serious students much higher and our absorption in practical activities much less. We had both time and incentive to read, discuss, think—maybe to dream.

But it is all bustle and rush now—too many jobs for too few hands. Still, if something is not done to educate thoughtful potential zealots like the writer of this letter our Party stands in grave danger of becoming a moribund political machine like the Communist Party of Russia—solely concerned with maintaining its own predominance.

SOME SUGGESTIONS

WHAT'S to be done about it? First, there is her own suggestion—more lectures and discussion on basic principles and methods—the sort of sub-

jects dealt with in the old "Fabian Essays"—first published in 1889, but still a sound introduction to the study of Socialism. The N.C.L.C., too, have

By HAROLD WRATTEN, Ealing D.L.P.

● Hundreds of thousands of new recruits have joined our Party in recent years. But how many are convinced Socialists and active Party workers? Here a veteran of the Movement discusses this question and makes a number of suggestions for awakening an interest in the basic principles of Socialism among the Party's newcomers.



courses which give a good lead to serious students. Cole's "Guide to the Elements of Socialism" is an excellent study guide. How many parties are making use of it?

We need, too, as a constant permanent feature, a standard "Readers' List" on basic subjects. The Fabian Society used to do this valuable piece of work; perhaps they still do. If so their list might well be used. But the essential thing is that every party and section should see to it that copies are easily available to every potential user at all times, not in stunts and spasms. Headquarters might issue frequent periodical directives on this.

The Summer Schools syllabus should include more opportunity for acquiring, digesting and discussing the "fundamental hypotheses." Without a grasp of these the study of policies

and techniques are apt to result in Dead Sea fruit.

Cannot the "powers that be" do something to meet the crying need for more popular general socialist educational pamphlets? Is propaganda pamphleteering a lost art, or are all the competent writers so busy telling us what and how, that they haven't time to say "Why"? If so the Party might well reprint some of the old-timers—Wells's "This Misery of Boots"; Fred Henderson's "A.B.C. of Socialism"; Suthers' "Socialism or Chaos"; Morrison's "Easy Outline of Modern Socialism." Perhaps even Shaw might consent to having some of his crushing and pithy earlier expositions resurrected. Everybody has not read them by a long chalk — and nowhere has the case for Socialism been put with greater wit and force.

WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?

IMMEDIATE crises and to-morrow's job are, of course, vitally important; the difficulties—shortages of paper, of speakers, of rooms, of writers—are considerable. But we did not build up our Movement by dodging awkward spots, we overcame them. We shall face the future crises and the oncoming tasks with greater hope and in finer fettle if we can rely on a fresh band of eager, informed, enthusiastic young "pioneers of the new age" to carry our great task forward.

Those half-million newcomers are treading on our heels, brothers; there are millions more behind them. We cannot achieve Social Democracy without an educated socialist populace. Circumstance determines the rate of progress, but we alone can pass on the faith. How can it best be done?

I have no complete cut-and-dried answer—the hints above are just to start you talking. If you feel, like me, that the job is vitally important, write in and throw your ideas into the pot. The Editor waits.



MORTONS FOR STATIONERY

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Schools for Key Workers

By JOHN PINKERTON

A really important job can be undertaken by constituency or groups of constituency parties by arranging week-end schools for local party and ward secretaries and other key workers, on the subjects of Party Organisation and the Conduct of Elections.

These schools have become all the more necessary because of the proposed changes in electoral law and the effect of these changes on our organisation.

Many regions have already got well into their stride in this matter, and a number of such schools have been held in the last three months. It has been evident by the discussions that have taken place at these schools that a re-arrangement of our organisation machinery will have to be made to meet the new requirements.

Some Important Changes

It is not intended to detail here all the changes that are contemplated, but to draw attention to the necessity of examining the proposals in order that our organisation can be planned accordingly. For instance, the question of registration and the proposal to publish two registers a year will call for more frequent examination of electors' lists, and the extending of postal voting facilities to apply to Local Government Elections and to people suffering either from a temporary or permanent physical incapacity will mean that great care will have to be taken to see that such electors take advantage of this facility. It will no doubt mean the appointment of an officer whose task it is to deal only and wholly with this aspect of the work.

Another feature will be the appointment of election agents by municipal candidates, and the necessity of the agent to authorise all expenditure and to enter into any contract for the hiring of halls, ordering of printed matter, and any work done in connection with the election. The fact that in future all parish council elections will be determined by ballot means the recruitment of more workers in rural areas who are capable of manning

committee rooms and polling stations, and carrying out the multifarious duties necessary to campaign successfully.

The requirement that returns of election expenses must be made in respect of all elections means that agents and candidates in metropolitan borough, rural and urban district and parish council elections must undertake a new task.

These are just a few of the changes provided for. There are many others which will affect the methods of organisation.

In planning your schools see that the practical aspects are dealt with, study registration, the qualifications and entitlements of electors, so that you can mark up your records in such a way that the checking of the electors' lists, when published, will be easier and more complete, in that you have determined that all your supporters are on the register. If they are not on, take steps to see that they are put on.

Consider the duties of election agents in local elections, and drill your students in all nomination procedure and the completing of the legal forms required in the matter of extension of polling hours, etc. Discuss the various systems of canvassing, with a view to finding the simplest method which suits your constituency and gives the best results.

Election Expenses

Finally deal with election expenses and returns, and know exactly what is required by law, for it is ignorance in this important part of the work which frequently proves the most costly.

One thing has been very evident from the schools already held, and that is that the students go away with the feeling of confidence in tackling the election campaign. The knowledge that what they are doing is correct and will not lead them into difficulties is in itself a great recommendation.

Start planning your schools now, so that the foundations of success in the 1949 spring election can be well and truly laid.

Wealdstone Women—Our Story

By MRS. AGNES THOMPSON

Secretary, Wealdstone North and South Wards Women's Section

In reply to the appeal to women by Mrs. Cathie Ure, under the heading "Women—Let's Hear From You," in the April issue of the *Labour Organiser*, I feel I must take up the challenge and give a few details of the work done by the Wealdstone North and South Wards Women's Section (Harrow East D.L.P.), of which I have the honour to be the Secretary.

Picking up the threads from the war years, this Section has made steady and satisfactory progress. Activities both on the political and social side have been well developed.

Firstly, I should explain that we are extremely fortunate in having a fine Hall in which to hold our meetings. This was built (and is now free from all debt) by the splendid efforts of the pioneers of our movement in the Wards concerned.

Section meetings are held each week, and on the last week in the month a Whist Drive is held in aid of Section funds.

Educational Work

In co-operation with the Women's Central Committee, periodical meetings have been arranged which have made a valuable contribution to the educational side of our activities, and have afforded us the opportunity of hearing such well-known speakers as:—Mrs. Wallhead-Nichol, M.P., Miss Grace Colman M.P., Lady Shepherd, Miss Mary Sutherland, J.P., and Miss Grace Tavener, as well as a number of local speakers dealing with current affairs.

Last year, at the third Delegate Conference held by the Harrow Council, three members of the Section attended and many interesting discussions followed the report on this Conference, which covered four Sessions dealing with the work of the Council.

In the work of local elections, the Section played a prominent part, such important posts as Agent, and Polling Captain, being accepted by our members.

Another achievement in the year's work of the Section was the effort made towards the Bazaar organised by the D.L.P. to form a fighting fund for the 1950 elections. It has been readily recognised that the major part of the

work done in this direction fell upon the Women's Sections, and we are proud of the fact that, out of a total amount of £240 raised, £60 was contributed by our combined stall.

A marked feature of our activities during the past year has been our donations to charities, which have amounted to £23 in all. The following is a list of organisations which have received help from the Section:—

The Margaret McMillan Memorial Fund.

The Flood Distress Fund.

The William and Morrison Pit Disaster Funds.

Tyneholme Nursery School.

The Manor House Hospital.

The Educational Trust Fund.

The Children's Party Fund.

Other local appeals have also received support.

Delegates' Good Work

The Section realises its indebtedness to the work of the delegates who keep us in touch with other Committees and outside organisations. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the importance of this work and the necessity of keeping in close touch with outside activities.

It is realised that development on the social side is also an important factor in the work of the Section, and in this direction visits have been made to places of interest. Two summer outings were organised and a birthday social held.

Turning to the present year, an ambitious programme is already under way. Visits are being arranged to the "Daily Herald" offices, the Tyneholme Nursery School, and the Mary MacArthur Holiday Home, Stansted. An outing to the London Coliseum took place in February and two outings by motor coach have also been arranged.

Talks have been arranged on "Tele-vision," "Industrial Insurance," and "Parliamentary Procedure."

In February, the Section entertained the West Middlesex Advisory Council, when Miss Grace Colman, M.P., spoke on "The Crisis."

On a recent visit to the Rhondda, I was privileged to be the guest of Mrs.

(Continued on page 13)

LEAD Your Discussion Groups to Success

By T. Knight, Assistant Secretary, Woolwich L.P.

Woolwich L. P. has kept going fifteen Discussion Groups over the last two years. Here is its plan for success in this important branch of Party Work.

A few simple rules must be adhered to if a Discussion Group is to be successful; I say simple rules, because if a discussion group is not tackled with simplicity and the human touch, it can never hope to function for any length of time.

Whilst it is necessary to deal with the principles of running a group as a single entity, we must always bear in mind the importance of the environment we give to it as a background; an important factor that contributes to its maintenance.

Discussion is as old as man, and now all that we are trying to do in this modern age is to develop organised discussion in a way that will be educational and entertaining.

We must lay stress on the EDUCATIONAL and, therefore, approach group organisation with extreme care, because in them we must add an amount of entertainment to encourage members to attend. What then makes organised discussion a success? IT'S LEADERSHIP!

A Leader's Job

A person to make a good leader need not be an expert on any subject. All

that is needed is a good knowledge of the Movement and Labour's Policy, native intelligence, tact and a pleasant manner, and a willingness to acquire a correct technique. The few simple things a leader has to learn are:—

To apply his native intelligence to the subject under discussion and break it down into easy stages of understanding, and make simplicity the hallmark of his approach.

Never allow intellectualism to break in—this will kill a group more quickly than any other fault.

Learn to use statistics in their very minimum form, and always quote round figures.

Be concise. Be sure also to be tactful in handling people, and look as if you're enjoying yourself!

Don't do all the talking, but encourage other members to speak.

Guide the discussion in the way it should go.

If a leader develops this technique he will quickly fall in the way of handling discussion in a correct manner and of bringing out the main points for discussion in a concise and easily understandable way.

Prevent more than one person speaking at once, and the discussion becoming an argument or private talk among small numbers of the group.

Never get ruffled or sarcastic with members.

Wind up the discussion and bring it to a logical conclusion.

When a leader has learned to apply these rules it will not be long before all members of the group are contributing to the discussion, and those members who have said, "I can't put my point of view," will have learned to do this without realising it. This is the entertainment and with it goes the education.

Group Environment

In a Divisional Party with a number of wards there is a foundation for building up an educational scheme of which the ward discussion group can be the basis. A suitable person should be chosen as Political Education Officer

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and the prospects of setting up ward groups considered with the Party Executive. At the same time, stock should be taken of suitable members for training as leaders. This is extremely important. Those chosen should be gathered under a trained leader to coach them in the correct methods of leading a group.

When this training has been completed, not until, then is the time to approach wards to form groups. At the beginning it might be wise to attempt to hold the meetings in a member's house, as this supplies the homely and pleasant touch so much needed.

Setting up a number of groups simultaneously gives the advantage of being able to hold leaders' meetings to discuss general problems in the groups, suitable subjects for discussion, and the general advancement of group activity. Comparing the progress of the groups in order to arrest any failures.

It is not enough to set up a group under the leadership of any member chosen at will then leave it to survive in its isolation. The ordinary ward group should be supported by some form of larger organisation preferably on a divisional basis.

The leaders' meetings should be held regularly, and collective meetings of members of all the ward groups held periodically. These can be held in the form of a one-day school or Divisional Discussion Group Meeting, and a first-class speaker obtained on a topical subject.

Three Don'ts

Further to this the ward group should be tied closely to the ward, and the leader present a group report at each ward meeting.

Perhaps the three most dangerous things to the life of a group are **WRONG LEADERSHIP, ISOLATED GROUPS WITH NO SUPPORT FROM THE WARD OR RESPONSIBLE PARTY OFFICIALS, WRONG GUIDANCE OR NO GUIDANCE AT ALL.**

In some cases many members of various Executives are afraid of discussion groups. This negative type of mind with all the strange fears that go with it, is a detriment to the progress of the Movement, and in fact, to society, because it can be only by guided and well organised discussion that problems can be seen in their true light . . . and reasonable conclusions reached.

To Minute Secretaries:

Plain English, Please!

By **Mrs. KYTHE HENDY**

Assistant Secretary, St. Marylebone D.L.P.

It is to the glory of our Labour Government that during its first term of office the Stationery Office has published Sir Ernest Gowers' enchanting "Plain Words—A Guide to the Use of English." I here suggest that this wise and witty little book can greatly help all of us in the Labour Party who write minutes, reports and other necessary documents.

Our English language, a vital part of our great culture, is threatened by an interloper the author calls pudder. In pudder, the meeting does not begin and end, instead the proceedings commence and terminate; minutes are not read, they are perused; no comrade ever says or tells anything, he indicates it.

The Women's Section does not go to the Town Hall for a meeting, it proceeds there, only to find that the Town Clerk has left for his residence — he never goes home. Away with pudder! Bring back English! The young Literature Secretary must be told to buy his supplies, not to purchase them; the newly-formed Ward Committee must work, not function, resolutions should be sent, not transmitted, to Head Office, which could be asked, not requested, to name suitable speakers.

Our Party is strengthened by the men and women released from the Forces since the end of the war, not the cessation of hostilities, though many of them are still very busy looking for new homes—a house, a flat or even a room of their own, and never, never, never alternative accommodation. Minute Secretaries—try English, you'll like it.

(Continued from page 11)

Elizabeth Andrews, J.P. No words of mine are necessary to describe her wonderful record of service to the movement, but to a comparative beginner like myself she served as a tonic and an inspiration—a shining example to all. Maybe we can carry the torch for some of these pioneers who have served the movement so faithfully and well.

It's Just a Minute

By MARGARET BREWER

Miss Brewer is on the staff of the Southern Regional Council. Here she gives some hints on the art of successful minute-keeping.

If Minutes could be sold for export many of our Parties would be mentioned in "Progress Report," for the size of the Minutes which they produce is most prodigious.

But Minutes are not an inventory; they are simply "a record of the action taken." However long an unwary Chairman may allow the discussion to go on, the Secretary's pencil remains poised in the air until the words—"The motion before us is so-and-so. Are we agreed?"

It is essential that the Minute writer should know clearly the precise terms of the motion, and it is often advisable to ask the Chairman to read out the motion as noted down by the Secretary, before the motion is put to the vote.

Keep Them Short

Minutes should be as concise as possible. Even if your Committee has attempted to rival the House of Commons in the length of time it has discussed a subject, it is undesirable that the Minute should also compete in length.

Let us suppose that the Executive Committee at the last meeting of the General Committee put forward a recommendation which was endorsed concerning the organisation of the winter programme of public meetings. A certain Ward disagrees most violently with the decision and has submitted a most detailed communication which is discussed by the Executive Committee at some considerable length, but in the end they decide that considering the Division as a whole, the decision which they made was the right one. The whole affair could have occupied some half an hour of the Committee's time, but the Minute can read:—

Correspondence:

From Wayward Ward, objecting to the proposed organisation of the winter programme of public meetings. After discussion it was

RESOLVED:

"That the previous decision of the Committee shall stand."

Personally, I can see no point in recording the names of the mover and seconder in the Minutes of the Executive Committee. Once the motion is

adopted, the Committee as a whole is responsible for it, and the recommendation is presented to the General Committee in those terms for endorsement, or rejection.

This is not the case with the General Committee of a Divisional Party where the Minutes are presented to the same Committee at the next meeting for confirmation of correctness. In this case, the recording of the names of the mover and seconder will aid the Committee quickly to recall the precise nature of the business.

The order of the Minutes is important. Disjointed Minutes will confuse and waste the time of the next meeting. Let us take the Minutes of a typical General Committee of a Divisional Labour Party. At the head of the page will be the details of the meeting.

"A Meeting of the General Committee of the Boundenborough Divisional Labour Party held at the Labour Hall, Boundenborough, on Saturday, 29th April, 1948, at 3 p.m."

Next a list of those present and apologies received.

The first item of business should be the Minutes of the previous meeting.

"1. Minutes:

The Minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were agreed as a correct record of business and signed by the Chairman."

The next item should be the report of the Executive Committee which will have dealt with all correspondence received up to the date of its meeting, and have received the Minutes of its various Sub-Committees. If the General Committee is not in agreement with a recommendation of the Executive Committee, the "reference back" of the appropriate portion of the Report will be carried. The Minute will read:—

"2. Report of the Executive Committee:

The Secretary presented the Report of the Executive Committee which was endorsed with the exception of item 6—Local Government Elections—which was referred back to the Executive Committee for further consideration."

A copy of the Report should be inserted in the Minute Book at the end of the Minutes of the General Committee meeting to which it was presented.

The next item will be Correspondence. This will only include such correspondence as has been received by the Secretary since the date of the last meeting of the Executive Committee. The items of correspondence should be tabulated under (a) (b) (c) etc., and the Minute should record the name of the organisation sending it, a brief indication of the contents and the action taken by the General Committee to deal with it.

Reports from Delegates

The next item in the Minutes will be Reports from Wards, delegates to Conferences, and Federation delegates, etc. It will save the time of the Minute writer if the members making reports can be induced to write out a short report which can be inserted in the Minute Book at the end of the Minutes of the General Committee

"Reports:

Winsome Ward.

Mrs. J. Jympson gave the report. The Ward was congratulated on its increased membership.

Noisesome Ward.

Mr. J. Arthur gave the report. The Executive Committee was instructed to enquire into the falling off in activity in this Ward.

Blankshire Federation.

Miss H. Harlow gave the report. Noted.

Regional Conference of Secretaries.

The Secretary gave the report. Noted."

The next item will be Resolutions. It is desirable, in addition to a very clear statement of the result of the voting, to indicate briefly the feelings of the meeting during the debate, particularly on subjects of a contentious nature.

Finally any items which the Chairman took under "Any Other Business" must be disposed of. It is confusing to leave such items under the cryptic heading of "A.O.B.," and preferable that they should be given separate headings. Some Parties make a habit of deciding upon the date of the next meeting at the close of proceedings and this can be the final item.

The actual note-taking at a meeting should be done in a notebook, not on a sheet of paper which will almost certainly get caught up with the correspondence. It is perhaps difficult, but certainly useful to get into the habit of only writing down the relevant notes; a mass of detail is a formidable barrier to the expeditious writing up of the Minutes.

And talking of writing up, it really is much easier to write up the Minutes the same night as the meeting. Even if your meeting does not finish at the time stated in Standing Orders, it is worth while burning a little of the eleven o'clock oil in order to complete the Minutes while the events of the meeting are still fresh in your mind. In any case, I have often found that action to be taken as a result of the meeting does not become prominent in one's mind until the Minutes are written up.

Compiling an Index

If the Minutes are numbered consecutively from the beginning of the year, it is possible to compile an index which shows, for instance, that the League of Youth has been discussed under Minutes 8, 39, 50 and 67 of 1947 and Minutes 10 and 37 of 1948. This is a useful reference when the Committee wishes to review the action it has taken on a particular subject over a period of time.

It is a distinct advantage, although only open to Parties possessing in addition to a typewriter and duplicator, a trained typist among their members, to stencil the Minutes and circulate these with the Notice of the next meeting. Committee members appreciate the opportunity of studying the Minutes and at the meeting, the Minutes can be taken as read which saves time.

Minutes are a useful and highly necessary part of a Committee meeting. If the general opinion is that they waste a lot of time, then you are failing in your job.

The prime thing to remember when writing up is that Minutes are not prepared in order that members who did not attend the meeting can have a detailed description of what transpired; they are a written record of the expressions of policy, of action decided upon, and the commitments undertaken by your Committee in its work of managing the affairs of your Party.

Safeguarding the Future

By JOHN F. HILL, Assistant District Organiser, North-Western Region

"Our Party, and especially our Government, are dependent for their future on the educational work of the present."

The most important work facing us at the present time is to attract into the Party and encourage the political training of those people who came of age since the depression of the 1930s, with a special thought for the youngsters who will be using the vote for the first time in the next few years. In other words, the youth of the nation.

In saying this, I am not talking only about the League of Youth; its members are, of course, included, but I want this statement to apply to every young man and woman between the ages of 16 and 30 odd years.

In the past most of us were made Socialists through the stomach. We remember the time when we were willing to work and were not allowed to do so by the people who owned and controlled the means of production: the time when grown men were kept by their aged parents because their dole had run out, and the cream of Britain's manhood walked the streets unwanted, and the best craftsmen in the world were idle. Those who remember clearly the years between the world wars, remember all this and more with bitterness. They remember that the people who were employed worked only for a pittance that hardly bought the necessities of life and were in constant fear of losing their jobs, knowing there were long queues at the factory gates.

Conditions Have Changed

In these and earlier years of Tory misrule our Labour Party grew up. None will wonder that such conditions made us into active socialists, made us resolved upon a different system of society. But now a Labour Government is in power, directing a policy of full employment and ensuring useful work for every able-bodied man and woman to do, while at the same time maintaining a reasonable standard of living. Therefore the stomach threat is removed and this very removal sets us our most difficult and urgent problem.

The older members have learned their lesson but how are the youngsters, the electorate of to-morrow, to judge our claim to be the only Party that can ensure a happy and prosperous nation? If the Government is successful in its policy of full employment—and should

it fail in this everything else, including the great social services, will also fail—there will never be again the threat to the people's living standard which I have termed the stomach threat. Apart from history, which very few people ever bother to read, the new electorate will not know of the very real difference between life under Tory and Socialist rule. You know, you can't talk to a man about hunger who has always had four meals a day.

The answer must be the enrolment within the Party of our youth. In this and the years immediately ahead, a special effort will have to be made to attract younger people into our ranks. *It is reasonably easy to get people into the Party if one is prepared to do the work, but just getting them in is not enough—not by a long way. They must be made to feel they are wanted, that the Party has something to offer them, and above all else, steps must be taken to ensure that they do understand the philosophy of socialism.*

A New Appeal

Our approach now should be an intellectual one, an appeal as much to the mind as the old appeal was to the stomach. This means a considerable increase in the educational work of the Movement. The greater portion of the time of meetings of Local Parties, Wards, Women's Sections, and Leagues of Youth should be taken up with this work and the ordinary—often dull—routine business cut down to the minimum.

Very little can be done, however, in an occasional couple of hours and Constituency Parties must expect to be responsible for the organisation of one-day schools and week-end schools. Regional Councils will have to do much more in organising educational conferences, week-end schools and full week schools. But in particular I look forward to a substantial extension of the national school system where the student receives a week's concentrated study in one particular aspect of the Party's work. I know the number of these schools has been increased since their inception but I believe that it will be necessary to increase the number still more in the years just ahead of us.

All this is very good, but something more is wanted.

Residential schools need to be organised where our most promising youngsters—without interruption in the earning of their livelihood—can give the whole of their time for a period of three

or six months, perhaps even a year or more in the not too far distant future, to the study of socialism and of that particular aspect of the Party's work which specially interests them and thus be fitted to take the lead in Party activity in the constituencies.

The New Appointments

Mr. Edward Eldred, who has been agent for nearly a year at Epping, has been appointed secretary and agent for Hartlepoons. Aged 30, Mr. Eldred has been a Party member for 14 years and has served as secretary of his local Party and assistant secretary of his D.L.P. He has assisted in several by-elections and has had experience in all type of local elections. He has been a trade union member for 12 years.

Mr. Ralph Miller, who becomes agent and secretary in Liverpool, has been agent in Sunderland for two-and-a-half years. He has worked in all elections since 1926 and was sub-agent in the Jarrow by-election in 1947. Aged 45, Mr. Miller has been in the Party for 21 years and has been chairman of his D.L.P. and a member of Sunderland Council for 13 years. Starting life as a 'bus driver he has been an active trade unionist for 21 years, serving as branch chairman and branch secretary of the T. & G.W.U.

Mr. William Moore, an ex-miner and secretary of Abram Local Labour Party, becomes agent and secretary for Mossley. Since becoming secretary of his local Party four years ago, individual membership has risen from 26 to 478. Mr. Moore, who is 42, also worked as sub-agent during the General Election of 1945. A trade union member for 29 years, he has been active in his branch of the N.U.M.

Mr. J. Watson, who has been working as part-time agent in South Norfolk for ten years, now becomes full-time agent. Aged 57, Mr. Watson has been a member of the Party for 21 years and was in control of the General Election campaign in South Norfolk in 1945. During the war

years he was County Equipment Officer and Special Instructor for the Norfolk County Council Civil Defence Service.

Mr. Harry Cooke, who is 28, becomes full-time agent for Lichfield. A mechanical engineer by profession, Mr. Cooke has held various positions in the Party and was a sub-agent in the 1945 General Election. He has also been an active trade union member for 13 years and has had considerable organising experience in this field.

Mr. C. Snowden, who is 41, and a building trade operative by profession, was an assistant agent at the General Election of 1945. He now becomes full-time agent for Chippenham. He has had considerable experience in organising municipal election campaigns and has himself been a member of the Poole Borough Council.

Mr. John Shackleton, who is 26 and only recently demobilised from the R.A.F., is the new full-time agent for Barkston Ash. He has been a Party member for seven years and has helped in municipal elections as well as in the General Election of 1945.

DEADLINE

Don't forget the deadline for the receipt of all contributions — the 15th of the month for publication the following month.

That applies to advertisements as well as articles. Send them all to The Editor, Labour Organiser, Transport House, Smith Square, S.W.1.

Let's hear what your Party is doing!

Let's Believe in Youth

By IDRIS WILLIAMS, Agent, Wallsend-on-Tyne

You can be sure that Tory figures of successes in getting youth into the Conservative Party are exaggerated, just as their claims of adult membership are inflated, but, as you state, they are having some success.

I recently attended the Newcastle Youth Parliament, and noted the composition of the Tory Benches. Got the impression that some of them were almost eligible for the Contributory Old Age Pension.

On the question of age, I feel that the age-limit should be raised to 25. With youngsters of 16 to 20, there is extreme difficulty in maintaining sufficient responsibility and stability in the sections. The young people over 20, can be expected to supply a more mature outlook.

Here at Wallsend-on-Tyne, Youth Sections collapse because of the difficulty of keeping close supervision. The Sections become irresponsible; the educational side becomes neglected, and the social side takes precedence, and becomes the dominant feature of the Sections.

The remedies are of course, attrac-

tive meetings; education in socialist affairs and ideals, whilst the social side must have attention, but not to the extent of dominating the activities of the Section.

Older members can, and do assist to maintain the view that the main purpose of youth sections is to train young Socialists, but the tendency is to emphasise, not the political aspect, but the entertainment side, which after all should be the secondary consideration.

The Tories do emphasise and repeat to their youth that they do not exist simply to play table tennis and have a rollicking time generally. They set out to create Young Tories by teaching them the "wonders" of Private Enterprise as the cure for all economic and social ills.

Can it be that the burdens of governmental responsibility, locally and nationally, cause us to lose the spiritual idealism which made us such a propaganda force? Might we not have more success with youth if we have less faith in the tea-party, and more in the belief that youth can and will assimilate our politics?

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Bands, Banners and Bans

QUERIES ON COPYRIGHT

Now that the Representation of the People Bill has been amended to provide for the continued restriction of the employment of bands and banners in elections, the question is being asked as to whether this covers the use of gramophone records of music through loud-speaker equipment during the campaign. The answer is 'Yes.' It will continue to be an illegality during elections to pay or promise to pay for the use of bands and banners, and recorded music is included, in the category of bands.

There are, however, other occasions apart from election campaigns when parties wish to use recorded music, and this use is also subject to other laws, one of which is the law of Copyright, and care should be taken not to contravene this.

The author of any literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work has an ownership in his work, termed copyright, which gives him the sole right of publication, performance and production.

This copyright endures for the lifetime of the author and for fifty years after his death.

Copyright is infringed not only by copying but also by the performance of the work in public, and it frequently occurs when plays are produced by amateur dramatic societies in the local church hall or a gramophone recital is given by a local or village party.

There is an impression that if no charge for admission is made or that the performance is only to members of an organisation that no performing fee is payable, but this is not so. Only where the performance is in the home and the audience is really of a domestic character would this apply.

The collection of copyright fees are vested in the Performing Rights Society, 33 Margaret Street, London, W.1, and this Society issues licences for performances and makes it their business to track down infringements.

How does one know whether copyright exists on any work? It is fairly safe to assume that any piece of music or work written since 1850 is subject to copyright.

Fees for performances vary and parties intending organising such activity should communicate with the Performing Rights Society for licence and scale of fees, this will save a good deal of trouble and expense.

The problem of copyright frequently occurs in the compiling of election addresses and the use of plans showing proposed housing development. If plans or charts are used in this way permission to use the plan should be sought from the architect or surveyor who has drawn up the plan irrespective of whether it has been drawn at the request of the Council or not. Unless the plan is being reproduced for the purposes of an article in which the plan is reviewed, the reproducers are subject to a copyright fee.

Many Secretaries and Agents may feel after reading the above that to organise a social evening or to produce an election address a little out of the ordinary is a dangerous and hazardous project fraught with difficulties and the prospect of falling foul of some law or other. This is not the case. The purpose of this article is to point out the pitfalls and to give guidance, so that problems and difficulties will be minimised.

It is far better to be sure than sorry and a letter to the author of a plan or drawing asking for permission to reproduce his work or the payment of a small fee to the Performing Rights Society in respect of music, plays, etc., will save pounds in litigation if such permission is not sought.

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